

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A nail-guiding device that assists in the proper guiding of a nail with respect to a substrate and with respect to a driver, comprising:
 - a. a sleeve having a linear passage therethrough, said linear passage having a first end at least partially covered by a flexible membrane operative to engage and hold the nail, and
 - b. a piston slideably engaged in said linear passage and operative to transfer the impact of the driver to the nail in a drive-in operation,
whereby said membrane holds and guides the nail throughout said drive-in operation.
2. The device of claim 1, wherein said flexible membrane includes an opening that facilitates said engagement and holding of said nail.
3. The device of claim 1, wherein said piston includes a first end operatively associated with said linear passage first end, the piston first end including a concave surface suitable for centering a head of said nail.
4. The device of claim 1, wherein said membrane is fixedly attached to said sleeve.
5. The device of claim 4, wherein said fixed attachment is effected by gluing.
6. The device of claim 4, wherein said fixed attachment is effected by injection molding.
7. The device of claim 1, wherein said flexible membrane is made of rubber.
8. The device of claim 2, wherein said opening is round.
9. The device of claim 1, wherein said sleeve includes a accessory storage compartment.

11. The device of claim 1, wherein said sleeve includes a level indicator.
12. A hand tool for assisting the driving of a nail into a substrate at a drive-in location, comprising:
 - a. a guiding mechanism having a flexible membrane nail holding and guiding element; and
 - b. a driving element slideably engaged in said guiding mechanism and operative to drive the nail into the substrate at the drive-in location,
whereby said membrane holds and guides the nail throughout said drive-in operation.
13. The hand tool of claim 12, wherein said flexible membrane is fixedly attached to said guiding mechanism and includes a substantially centered opening for engaging and holding said nail before and through said drive-in.
14. The hand tool of claim 12, wherein said membrane is made of rubber.
15. The hand tool of claim 13, wherein said opening is round.
16. The hand tool of claim 13, wherein said opening is slit.
17. A method for driving a nail into a substrate comprising the steps of:
 - a. providing a sleeve having a linear passage therethrough, said linear passage having a first end at least partially covered by a flexible membrane operative to engage and hold the nail;
 - b. providing a piston with a first and a second end, said piston slideably engaged in said linear passage and operative to transfer the impact of a driver to the nail in the drive-in operation;
 - c. inserting the nail head-first into said flexible membrane to engage said piston at said first piston end; and
 - c. holding said sleeve and driving the nail into said substrate by impacting said piston at said second piston end.

18. The method of claim 17, wherein said step of providing a piston includes providing a piston in which said first piston end is concave, and wherein said step of inserting the nail head-first into said flexible membrane includes inserting said nail through an opening in said membrane that is aligned with said concave first piston end.

19. The method of claim 17, wherein said step of providing a sleeve having a linear passage therethrough, said linear passage having a first end at least partially covered by a flexible membrane includes providing a rubber membrane fixedly attached to said sleeve.

20. The method of claim 18, wherein said inserting said nail through an opening includes inserting said nail through a slit-opening.